

Skilled and unskilled workers in stone quarry industry

443. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of skilled and unskilled workers are engaged in stone quarry industry throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government had any assessment of such workers;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that majority of these workers suffer from lung diseases including TB;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of Government measures to stop occurrence of such diseases and for provision of medical help to affected workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Statewise employment details are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(d) and (e) Under the Mines Act, 1952, the onus of sending information with regard to any notified diseases lies on the mine management. Majority of the stone quarries are in the unorganized sector and the operations are seasonal in nature. Due to high labour turnover and absence of periodical medical examinations, cases of occupational diseases like silicosis go unreported. The statistics of air dust borne diseases reported to Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) in respect of all mines is given in the Statement-II (See below).

(f) In order to stop occurrence of such diseases, frequent inspections of mines are made with an objective to ensure that the airborne dust is suppressed at its source through engineering control measures as stipulated in the Regulations framed under the Mines Act, 1952. Follow up inspections are also made for checking of the compliance measures at regular intervals. The standard of airborne respirable dust concentration for asbestos has recently been amended from 2 fibers per cc to 1 fibers per cc. in the Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961.

The workers affected by dust borne diseases are to be provided free medical assistance by the company under the Mines Act, 1952 and the compensation or disability allowance is determined and paid by the mining companies through Workmen's Compensation Commissioner as per the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923.

Statement-I

Statewise employment in stone mine in India - 2008

Sl.No.	Mineral/State	Below Ground			Open Cast				Above Ground				Grand Total			
		Foreman	Face	Others	Foreman	Miners & Loaders		Others	Clerical &		Workers		Others			
		&	Workers		&				Supervisory		attached to					
		Mining	&		Mining				Staff		factories					
		Mate	Loaders		Mate	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Stone																
	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	26	32	-	16	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	78
	Bihar	-	-	-	4	34	-	2	-	8	-	4	-	2	-	54
	Goa	-	-	-	9	98	6	98	9	7	1	--		12	-	240
	Gujarat	-	-	-	8	64	4	16	6	52	2	44	-	26	6	228
	Haryana	-	-	-	201	1821	-	75	-	153	-	-	-	53	-	2303
	Jharkhand	-	-	-	220	637	-	350	3	257	23	134	94	491	102	2311
	Karnataka	-	-	-	1	15	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	19
	Maharashtra	-	-	-	45	213	3	73	6	60	-	6	-	27	11	444
	Orissa	-	-	-	4	49	-	1	-	5	-	7	-	1	-	67
	Rajasthan	-	-	-	1	40	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	15	-	60
	Tamil Nadu	-	-	-	13	184	86	33	-	22	-	20	-	25	2	385
	West Bengal	-	-	-	60	244	1	186	-	110	-	15	-	173	28	817
	Total: Stone	-	-	-	592	3431	100	850	25	683	26	230	94	826	149	7006

Statement-II

Reported Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Silicosis Cases from 1994 to 2011

Year	Silicosis	Year	Silicosis
1994	0	2003	5
1995	1	2004	9
1996	5	2005	33
1997	0	2006	0
1998	2	2007	0
1999	0	2008	3
2000	58	2009	0
2001	1	2010	0
2002	5	2011 upto 19.7.2011	1
		TOTAL	123

RSBY in Jharkhand

444. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many families/people in Jharkhand have benefited from Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) for the last three years, month-wise, district-wise, block-wise and the details of amount claimed by them;

(b) the large number of BPL families still don't get RSBY benefits and have to spend money on health on their family members by borrowing funds; and

(c) if so, when will Government ensure RSBY functions well for BPL families particularly in LWE districts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) District-wise and month-wise enrolment, hospitalization and amount of claim settled under RSBY in Jharkhand State is given in the statement. (See below).

(b) and (c) The RSBY has been appreciated within and outside the country. It has been awarded by ILO by way of publication as one of the social protection floor success stories around the world. It has been the endeavour of the government to cover as many BPL families as possible. So far more than 24 million such families, including those in LWE districts, have been covered. However, the scheme is voluntary in nature and only willing beneficiaries are enrolled under RSBY.